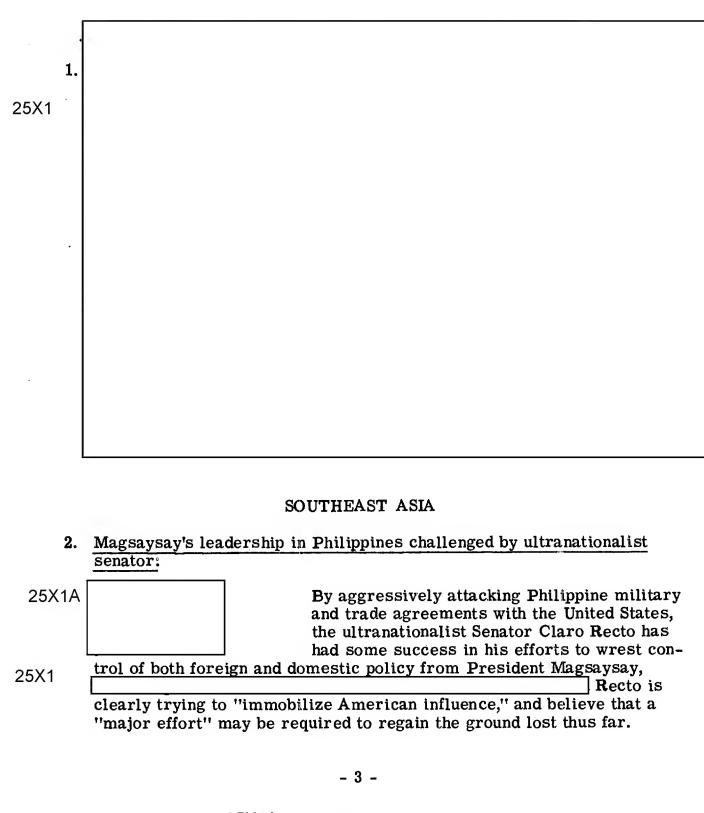
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		SUMMARY
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		SOUTHEAST ASIA
	2.	Magsaysay's leadership in Philippines challenged by ultranationalist senator (page 3).
X 1	3. 4.	Viet Minh improves artillery positions at Dien Bien Phu (page 4).
		NEAR EAST - AFRICA
	5.	Arab states will boycott any general discussion of Palestine issue in UN (page 5).
		WESTERN EUROPE
	6.	French government plans early announcement of EDC debate (page 6)
	•	LATIN AMERICA
	7.	Plot to assassinate Argentine president reported (page 7).
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Magsaysay has said that he intends to force an early showdown with the senator, and he is confident of victory. _______ if he fails to reassert 25X1 his leadership, the United States can expect the "sharpest kind of bargaining" on the base and trade agreements, including threats of outright abrogation. Comment: Magsaysay depended heavily on Recto for support in his election campaign last fall and repeatedly deferred to him in the early weeks of his administration. Although the president was reliably reported in mid-February to be aware of the danger to his policies presented by Recto's bid for leadership of the Nacionalista Party, he has not yet demonstrated the political skill required to counter the senator's efforts. 3. Viet Minh improves artillery positions at Dien Bien Phu: 25X1 stated that the Viet Minh now has 15 new 25X1A artillery positions from which it can place direct fire on both the main French defenses and the southern strong point at Dien Bien Phu. He believes that the enemy may be able to withdraw its guns into the hillsides in the face of air or artillery attacks. 25X1 the C-119 transports flown by American contract pilots are encountering accurate fire from 37mm antiaircraft guns, of which they estimate there are six or eight in the Dien Bien Phu area. The Viet Minh now appears to Comment: be preparing a third major attack. Previous estimates have placed the number of 37mm guns between 30 and 100.

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4.	
	NEAR EAST - AFRICA
5.	Arab states will boycott any general discussion of Palestine issue in UN:
25X1A	Lebanon will walk out of the UN Security Council if the Arab-Israeli incidents are to be discussed as whole rather than each incident on its merits, according to Iraqi prime minister Jamali. Jamali told Ambas- sador Berry in Baghdad that this decision had been approved at the recent Arab League meet- ing in Cairo, and that there would be a general Arab walkout as a public manifestation of lack
[of confidence in the West.
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	Comment: These items corroborate press reports that the Arabs are planning a walkout. Malik was noncomittal on the subject when queried by the press.

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WESTERN EUROPE

6.	French government plans early announcement of EDC debate: 25X1
25X1A	
	French NATO representative Alphand told Ambassador Dillon on 8 April that he expects Premier Laniel to announce on 15 April a decision to ask for debate. Alphand said that the Socialists have agreed to call a party congress on EDC after American and British assurances regarding the defense community are made public and after the French cabinet has stated that it will attempt to negotiate an agree- ment on "democratic control" with the other EDC countries. These nego- tiations, however, must be completed before the Socialist congress convenes.
25X1	

Comment: The EDC foreign ministers' meeting scheduled for 30 March was postponed indéfinitely at France's request, and there is little likelihood that the Socialists' demand for "democratic control" of EDC can be met in the near future. Bidault hopes to satisfy them by promising that their condition will be met in two or three years.

In view of Secretary Dulles' planned visit to Paris, the French government may further delay announcement of a date for the debate in order to avoid the charge of American pressure.

LATIN AMERICA

	cluding s	e army and navy o ome senior office	
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	arresteu	since 5 April on c	
ting to assass	inate President Pe		25X1
	Most of those arre	ested were navy of	ficers, but also
uded were sev	veral from Peron's	trusted army unit	in Buenos Aires
		Most of those arre	Most of those arrested were navy of uded were several from Peron's trusted army unit

Comment: With few exceptions, the armed forces, totaling 184,000, are reported loyal to Peron and capable of controlling any opposition. Few elements opposed to the present regime are believed to have escaped the extensive purge of the military which followed the abortive revolt in 1951 led by the anti-American Menendez. Plotting since that time has largely involved inactive military personnel and exiles in Uruguay.